

2011 Summer Reading: Senior Seminar

Flight by Sherman Alexie

As you read, carefully keep track of the setting, narrator, and voice for each section of the novel. Take some time to familiarize yourself with the historical figures and events echoed in the novel. Look at the websites listed for each section of the novel.

Chapters 1-3...

...Take place in contemporary Seattle. Zits, a young Native American, is the narrator.

- <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/1890s/woundedknee/WKghost.html>

Chapters 4-6...

...Take place in Red River, Idaho, on the fictional Nannapush Indian Reservation in 1975.

For background information, you might look up the American Indian Movement (AIM), the Pine Ridge Reservation, and Wounded Knee incident of 1973. Here are a few sites to get you going:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Indian_Movement
- <http://www.usmarshals.gov/history/wounded-knee/index.html>
- <http://www.usd.edu/library/special/wk73hist.htm>

Chapters 7-9...

...Take place at the Battle of Little Bighorn in June, 1876.

- <http://www.friendslittlebighorn.com/The-battle.htm>
- http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/crazyhorse.htm
- http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/custer.htm
- <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/1890s/woundedknee/WKmscr.html>

Chapters 10-12...

...Also take place in the late 1800s, but with a change of narrator.

Chapters 13-15...

...Move to 2002 with a new narrator, Jimmy, a flight instructor after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

- http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report_Exec.htm

Chapters 16-21...

...conclude the novel with Zits as the narrator in contemporary Seattle.

Another helpful link is Sherman Alexie's website: <http://www.fallsapart.com/>